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EXAMINER	
GUPTA, MUKTESH G	
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2144	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/784,766	KIKUCHI, KATSURO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Muktesh G. Gupta	2144	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 July 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *9-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *9-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined.

Amendments received on 07/02/2008 have been entered.

Claim 1-8 are cancelled.

Claim 11-18 are new.

Claims 9-18 have been examined on merits and are pending in this application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/02/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

a. Applicant's arguments with respect to **Claim 11** which is new have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

b. Applicant's arguments and amendments filed on 04/14/2008 have been carefully considered but they are deemed moot in view of the following new

grounds of rejection as explained here below, necessitated by Applicant's substantial amendment to the claims which significantly affected the scope thereof.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. **Claims 9-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

   a. **Claims 9-18** recite the limitation of *"A system, search service and directed to module, program…, which is software per se"*, and does not have the necessary element of processor or hardware or machine. Since a system which is software per se, *(as stated in par. 0009, lines 1-5, par. 0070, lines 1-7),* lacks the necessary physical articles or objects necessary for it to be a machine or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101, and it's clearly not a series of steps or acts so as to be a process or combination of two or more substances so as to be a composition of matter, it fails to fall within a statutory category. Since the claim is not limited to embodiments eligible for patent protection, it is being rejected as non-statutory as directed to a software per se rather than a patent-eligible machine, manufacture, process or composition of matter. Also see pages 30 and 53 of the Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility.

b. It is recommend, that **Claims 30** and its dependent to be amended as: "A system comprising processor…".

c. For the purpose of applying art, **Claims 9-18** are read as with above suggested claim language changes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. **Claims 9-18** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. 20010034771 to Hutsch, Matthias et al., (herein after "Hutsch").

As to Claims 9, 11 and 13, *Hutsch teaches search system, comprising:*

a search broker for searching for a service server providing an element service, for selecting and carrying out an element service in a next stage organized in a hierarchical structure from a group of element service server for providing the element service, and the search broker being connected to a client for requesting a composite service (as stated in par. 0133, lines 1-8, par. 0134, lines 1-8, universal content broker 113 provides a range of functions for querying, modifying and creating

data content. The use of different data sources is transparent for a portal user, i.e., the user of any user device coupled to network portal system 100. To facilitate the use of different data sources, hierarchy content provider 335 organizes the different sources in form of a hierarchical structure. Universal content broker 113 functions as a framework containing a range of elements and services for use with different data sources. Specifically, universal content broker 113 administers a plurality of universal content providers 331. Each universal content provider encapsulates the details of the different protocols and data sources available through that provider. A set of default universal content providers 331 allows access through FILE, HTTP, FTP, IMAP, POP3 and SMTP protocols. A portal operator can implement additional content providers so that in-house information services can be integrated into network portal system 100):

a portal server for serving as a portal of the composite service (as stated in par. 0156, lines 1-5, par. 0134, lines 1-8, All of the settings in network portal system 100 are stored by configuration server 336. This includes user-specific, application-specific and device-dependent configurations. By using configuration server 336, different kinds of information are stored in an ordered manner so that the information can be accessed quickly. Thus configuration server 336 contains entries for the user accounts, which contain the user name, password, home directory, and similar information. Configuration server 336 also holds various entries used to initialize applications. Each component of network portal system 100 can store and load persistent data in configuration server 336. Entries for services that have been initially integrated into network portal system 100 are stored in the configuration server 336 as well.

Configuration data is organized in a hierarchical tree structure in proxy 1510. Entries in the tree structure are addressed by name. The structure of the tree is determined by a strongly typed schema. The schema is installed into configuration database 337. Tree nodes are either value nodes, which contain a single value or a list of values from a limited set of basic types; collection nodes, which contain a collection of child node of various types; or container nodes, which contain a variable number of entries, all of the same type. These entries may all be values or all composite. In the first case all values have the same basic type, in the latter case all the subtrees have the same structure. The names of container entries are specified when they are created);

a group of service servers for providing more than two element services organized in a hierarchical structure for providing a composite service (as stated in par. 0310, lines 1-11, par. 0318, lines 1-5, par. 0324, lines 1-7, par. 0325, lines 1-14, The entries stored on configuration server 336, in one embodiment are classified in two large groups, user profiles and application profiles. User profiles describe all the user-dependent settings, which are not dependent on a particular application, but are specific to a domain to which a user belongs. These can be such entries as name and address of the portal user or details about user accounts. Application profiles describe application components such as user interface components, libraries, data store schemas, etc. Application profiles also contain application default parameter values. Configuration server 336 typically also includes entries for system configurations, policies and/or device-specific settings. This means various user roles with different access rights to system resources can be defined. In one embodiment, it is also

possible to store user device-specific data such as display size. FIG. 15 is a more detailed block diagram of one embodiment of configuration server 336. A component of network portal system 1501, e.g., a UCB component such as hierarchy content provider 335, or one of remote applications 310, accesses configuration server 336 through a configuration proxy 1510 that is shown executing in FIG. 15 on web-top manager 111. However, if for example, configuration proxy 1510 is associated with hierarchy content provider 335, configuration proxy 1510 may be in information tier 303. Typically, configuration proxy 1510 is in the same execution environment as component 1501 using proxy 1510 to access configuration server 336);

a policy database for holding policy information about service contents requested by the client, the policy database being connected to a policy management server (as stated in par. 0311-0317, lines 1-4, user profile can include any or all of: User login information such as userid, passwords/certificates for certain applications, etc.; User environment that includes hardware/software (type of portal device in use or available peripherals on client device or OS on laptop) settings, printer settings, language preference, etc.; Network and server settings such as which Proxy server, name server, IMAP server, Calendar server to use, ISP, PPP, DNS, DHCP settings, etc.; User policies regarding personal data and resources, who can access them, what type of access, etc.; Personal settings: bookmarks, alias definition, Vacation configuration for e-mail, delegation or proxy accounts for certain tasks, etc.; and User application preference from a group of similar types of available applications, application settings, etc.);

a registry management server for holding contents of element service provided by the service servers, the registry management server being connected with a registry database, wherein the search broker searches for a service server that provides an element service in accordance with the search request, and inquires policy information from policy management server, the policy management server extracts the policy information from the policy database and send the extracted policy information to the search broker, and the search broker inquires from the registry management server information regarding a service server that provides an element service in accordance with the search request, extracts from the registry database the information regarding a service server that provides an element service in accordance with the search request, and sends to the search broker the information regarding a service server that provides an element service in accordance with the search request, wherein the portal server receives a request of the composite service from client, requests the search broker to search for a service server matching with element service in a next stage structuring the composite service, obtains information about a service server matching with element service in the next stage structuring the requested composite service from the search broker, and requests the element service from the server, and wherein the server which receives the service from the portal server requests a search for the server matching with the element service in the next stage structuring the requested element service to the search broker, obtains information about the service server matching with the requested element service from the search broker, requests the element service to the service server matching with the requested element service, and carries out a request

for the element service in the next stage (as stated in par. 0161-0173, lines 1-12, FIG. 4 is a high-level process flow diagram for one embodiment of network portal system 100. A user inputs a request via a browser 304 executing on client device 102i in transmit request to web-top manager operation 401. Information in the request identifies whether the request is for content available through universal content broker 113, for content available from an external provider, e.g., through one of plurality of portlets 324, or for a service in remote applications 310 that is supported by web-top manager 111. The request from browser 304 is transmitted over a network to web-top manager 311 in transmit request to web-top manager operation 401. As described above, the transmitted request includes the type of document or service requested, the type of client device 102i that is making the request, the type of the browser executing on client device 102i, and the communication protocol that is typically part of a uniform resource locator (URL) included in the request. In response to the request, web server 320, determines how to process the request. It should be noted that web server 320 may require various user authentications before access to web server 320 itself, or before access to any information accessible via web server 320 is granted. The particular techniques used for such authentication as well as the various levels of authentication that may be used. Web server 320 determines whether the request is for universal content broker 113 in UCB Check operation 402. If the request is for universal content broker 113, check operation 402 transfers to provider check operation 403 and otherwise to application check operation 420. In provider check operation 403, desktop servlet 322 uses presentation and logic service 323 to determine whether there are

components available within service 323 to access universal content broker 113 for the type of information requested, e.g., for the MIME type of the information. For example, service 323 may access a user configuration file that was generated using configuration server 336 to determine whether components within service 323 have been instantiated for accessing universal content broker 113 for the type of information requested and for this user. If such components do not exist, in one embodiment, service 323 accesses a registry of factories to determine whether components can be instantiated for accessing the requested type of content, and if so uses the appropriate factory to instantiate the necessary components within service 323. In access components operation 405, service 323 passes the request to the component within service 323 that supports the requested content. In contact UCB operation 406, universal content broker 113 searches a registry of universal content providers 341 for the content provider associated with the URL. If a content provider for the requested content is found in a plurality of universal content providers 331, universal content broker 113 passes the request to the universal content provider that in turn retrieves the requested data, if necessary and returns a handle to the requested content in universal content broker content 332, If a handle to the requested data in UCB content 332 is returned processing transfers to access content operation 409 and the components within service 323 processing the request use the returned handle to obtain the raw data from UCB content 332. This data is in a format associated with the particular universal content provider. Accordingly, in operation 409, information is extracted from the raw data and placed, in a template associated with the user device that issued the request.

Information is extracted from the content, and inserted in the template that represents a page that can be displayed on the user device, or alternatively that can be used to generate a page that can be displayed on the user device. In either case, service 323 returns a page to the user device upon completions of operation 409 that includes the requested content).

As to Claims 10 and 12, *Hutsch teaches search system according to Claims 9, and 11, wherein the search broker includes an additional information database storing additional information related to a service provided by the service server, wherein the search broker obtains additional information of the service server matching with the requested service from the additional information database, and wherein the search broker extracting the service server matching with the policy information of the client among service servers relating to the information, in reference with the additional information of the server* (as stated in par. 0154, lines 1-12, par. 0235, lines 1-7, par. 0236, lines 1-7, As illustrated in FIG. 3B, to support both the loading and saving of local data, an additional universal content broker 113C maybe implemented on client device 102i. By utilizing a remote access universal content provider, client universal content broker 113C can be hinged onto server universal content broker 113 as an additional universal content provider. A file content provider could then be registered on the client universal content broker 113C. Every client request received by web-top manager 111 is accompanied by additional information such as the type of browser used (user agent) or the type of document requested (content type). Moreover, when the HTTP GET or

POST methods are used for calling a specific page, additional freely selected parameters that specify user-defined commands are transferred as well. On network portal system 100, these parameters are analyzed so that the requested information can be presented to client device 102i. In this embodiment of network portal system 100, this task is delegated to a profiling service server component 801, sometimes called profiling service 801. Profiling service 801 controls how a client request is answered. Profiling service 801 analyzes the details in the request together with other information, such as the properties of the device being used, and then decides which JSPs 811, servlets 812 or Beans 813 are to be employed to answer the request and decision tree determines the process flow. The decision tree is described in a format based on XML, in one embodiment, and is stored in a profiling service configuration file 802).

As to Claim 14 *Hutsch teaches search system according to Claim 11, wherein the portal includes a portal server policy database for storing information for selecting a service server in a lower layer, wherein the service server includes a server policy database for storing information for selecting a server in the lower layer, wherein the portal server extracts a service server conforming to policy information of the portal server policy database among the obtained service servers matching with the requested service, and requests the service for the extracted service server, and wherein the server which received the service from the portal server extracts a service server conforming to the policy information server policy database among service servers*

obtained as matching with the requested service, and requests the extracted server to provide the requested service (as stated in par. 0125-0127, lines 1-12, par. 0141-0142, lines 1-7, par. 0145-0147, lines 1-7, An important aspect in building a flexible, extendable and robust network portal system 100 is to bring in one or more abstraction layers between client tier 301 and information system tier 303 to reduce dependencies of core components in information system tier 303 to specialized front ends. This abstraction, in general, is done by presentation and logic service 323 in middle tier 302. Presentation and logic service 323 provides functionality in an application oriented way and hides implementation details of information system tier 303. In the following description, two alterative embodiments of presentation and logic service 323 are described. A first embodiment of presentation and logic service 323 uses a plurality of providers and adapters. The adapter forms a link with universal content broker 113 and universal content broker content 332 to retrieve data, and an adapter extracts information from the data and builds a page that can be returned for display to the user device. A second embodiment of presentation and logic service 323 uses controller servlets, JAVA beans as models, and JAVASERVER PAGES objects as views. As explained more completely below, in this embodiment a JAVA bean forms a connection with universal content broker 113 to retrieve data. A servlet extracts the desired information from the data and inserts the information in a JAVASERVER PAGE object that in turn is used to generate a page that can be returned for display on user device 102i or 102j. Content node hierarchies can be built for content objects such as an IMAP account or a file system as illustrated in FIG. 2D. In these situations, a parent-child

relationship exists between the different content objects. To enable access not only to parent nodes but also to child nodes, the content objects implement additional interfaces that also allow new nodes to be created and inserted. Universal content providers 331 make access possible to the different data sources in UCB content 332. Each content provider implements an interface, which facilitates access to data through a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI). Universal content broker 113 administers universal content providers 331. As soon as a client requests particular content, in this embodiment, web server 320 addresses UCB 113 and passes on the corresponding URI. The UCB 113 analyzes the URI to determine the content provider identifier so that UCB can find the appropriate universal content provider on UCP registry 341. The task of loading the requested data is delegated to this provider. Neither, the user of user device 102i, nor web server 320, needs to know specific details about the protocol or data source. The content provider carries out all of the necessary steps. The content object encapsulates the requested data and loaded, transferred to the client).

As to Claim 15 *Hutsch teaches search system according to Claim 11, wherein the portal server includes a portal server policy database for storing information for selecting a server in a lower layer, wherein the portal server receives from the server which requested the service a result of the service and information for evaluating the service, and wherein on the basis of information for evaluating the service, evaluation by the client of the service provided by the server is reflected in the portal server policy database* (as stated in par. 0099-0102, lines 1-10, par. 0529, par. 0531, par. 0532,

lines 1-12, web-top manager 111 includes a user interface, which is defined via different XML, HTML or WML templates and/or stylesheets. Web-top manager 111 selects a template, or stylesheet using the information transmitted in the request from client device 102i. The template, or stylesheet selected by web-top manager 111 is used to present content in the form required by client device 102i. Hence, upon retrieving the requested content using the handle provided by UCB 113, web-top manager 111 loads, a template and fills in all user specific content in the template using the retrieved content. The completed template is transmitted to client device 102i for display. Alternatively, web-top manager 111 retrieves a stylesheet and uses the stylesheet to transform the content into a format that can be displayed on client device 102i. This example assumed that the information in the retrieved content was in a format such that the information could be extracted and placed in the template or could by transformed using a stylesheet. In another embodiment, the retrieved content is processed by a dynamic data conversion service. The dynamic data conversion service generates a dynamic data filter that includes a chain of partial filter adapter components. The dynamic filter converts the original retrieved content from a first format into a second format such that the information can be extracted and placed in the template or transformed using a stylesheet. The generation of dynamic data filters facilitates processing a broad range of content with differing formats by network portal system 100. The above example assumed that the client request was for content provided by a registered content provider or for content available via a portlet. Structure ContentProviderInfo in Table 27 contains a reference to the content provider itself and

the URL scheme for which the content provider is registered. Interface XContentIdentifier also inherits from interface XInterface. Method getContentIdentifier of interface XContentIdentifier returns a content identifier string that is a valid uniform resource identifier. If a content provider implements some existent URI scheme, e.g., a content provider offering access to a file system would implement the `file` scheme, and a content provider offering access to IMAP servers would implement the `imap` scheme, the content identifier strings should use that scheme. If on the other hand a content provider offers access to content for which no appropriate URI scheme exists, a vendor-specific URL scheme starting with `vnd.` must be created. The URL scheme associated with a content provider may be retrieved using method getContentProviderScheme. This string is calculated from the content identifier string. The string returned is the URL scheme the content provider is registered for).

As to Claims 16 and 18, *Hutsch teaches search system according to Claims 13 and 15, wherein on the basis of a result of comparison between reliability being set for the client and a predetermined standard value, the portal server determines whether to automatically reflect the evaluation of the server's service in the portal server policy database or to inquire from an operator if the evaluation of the server's service will be reflected in the portal server policy database* (as stated in par. 0437, lines 1-7, par. 0483-0486, lines 1-6, par. 0459-0460, lines 1-12, The configuration tree stored by proxy 1510 is a recursive hierarchical tree structure, where entries are identified by names relative to their parent (and by a composite name globally). Stepwise navigation through

the hierarchy is allowed by interface XNameAccess. The reverse navigation is possible using interface XChild and the (local) name can be recovered via interface XNamed. An overview of the framework for implementing one embodiment of information tier 303 in network portal system 100 is presented using interface definition language files. Via these interfaces, the following operations can be achieved: content is provided; content is obtained from content providers; content is defined; properties of content are set, updated, read, deleted; components are notified about changes in content. Network portal system 100 provides services to register and maintain implementations of content provider systems. Content provider systems are classified according to what uniform resource locator (URL) schemes they implement. For Web sites, the scheme is HTTP. For IMAP or FTP sites, the scheme is (respectively) imap or ftp. The main network portal service that manages universal content providers 331 is a service UniversalContentBroker, which is a one-instance service, and which is universal content broker 113. In one embodiment, as presented below, service UniversalContentBroker implements four interfaces: 1) an interface XContentProvider; 2) an interface XContentProviderManager;3)an interface XContentIdentifierFactory; and an interface XComponent, the name of the interface is indicative of the type of the interface, e.g. interface XContentProvider is an interface used to provide content. Other interfaces may also be supported in API 1511. Interface XMultiPropertySet is usually available. Interfaces XPropertyAccess or XFastPropertySet are possible extensions. Interface XFastPropertySet, if present, provides handles that are unique within the whole registry (or at least the whole subset in use). Typically, the property sets must not be dynamic,

so these interfaces are not available on container nodes. On objects providing only read-only access the property set information will still reflect the access rights granted by the schema, but methods setPropertyValue( ), setPropertyToDefault( ), etc. throw an appropriate exception. Interface XMultiPropertySet provides access to multiple properties. Interface XMultiPropertySet inherits from interface XInterface. Method getPropertySetInfo returns the interface XPropertySetInfo, which describes all properties of the object to which this interface belongs. NULL is returned if the object cannot or will not provide information about the properties. Method setPropertyValue sets the values to the properties with the specified names. The values of the properties must change before the bound events are fired. The values of the constrained properties should change after the veto able events are fired and after if no exception occurs. Unknown properties are ignored. Method setPropertyValue returns a sequence of all values of the properties, which are specified by their names. The order of the values in the returned sequence will be the same as the order of the names in the argument. Method addPropertiesChangeListener adds an interface XPropertiesChangeListener to the specified property with the specified names. The implementation can ignore the names of the properties and fire the event on all properties. Method removePropertiesChangeListener removes an interface XPropertiesChangeListener from the listener list. This method is a noop if the listener is not registered. Method firePropertiesChangeEvent fires a sequence of Property Change Events to the specified listener).

As to Claim 17 *Hutsch teaches search system according to Claim 11, wherein the server includes a server policy database for storing information for selecting a server in a lower layer, and sending information for evaluating the server with a result of service of which request is received in the third or fourth step to a source of the service request, and wherein on the basis of information for evaluating the service, among evaluations of service of the server carried out by the client, the evaluation of the service of the server in the lower layer is reflected to the server policy database* (as stated in par. 0128-0132, lines 1-12, par. 0331, lines 1-6, par. 0326-0327, lines 1-12, A second task of middle tier 302 is to provide access points for all kinds of clients in client tier 301, to manage user sessions for clients in client tier 301, and to provide specialized functionality to different kinds of clients in client tier 301. This specialized functionality is provided by middle tier 302 (i) supplying dynamically generated pages that can be displayed on the user device, e.g., HTML/WML/XML pages, (ii) linking requests from components in client tier 301 to actions on data objects, or (iii) hosting one of a plurality of remote applications 310, which are executed on a server machine for a client in client tier 301, but the user interface for the application is displayed on client device 102i. Network portal system 100 consolidates all resources under a single content manager, e.g., universal content broker 113, which allows a wide variety of data types to be accessed via a unified interface. One task of universal content broker 113 is to standardize the access to different data sources. Hierarchy content provider 335 provides portal users with a standard, expandable view of the different data in network portal system 100. Templates simplify and standardize large quantities of data. If data

structures are repeated, templates are used for summarizing complex structures and facilitating configuration service administration. A template can hold any type of data and is in itself a definition of new data type. Templates are often used in conjunction with sets. Configuration server 336 in response to the access by proxy 1510 communicates with a configuration back end 337 to load the data in a configuration tree or to store persistent modifications. For example, UCB components or one of remote applications 310 can load entries from configuration server 336. In this case, configuration proxy 1510 does not start as a separate process, but as a shared library directly in the corresponding UCB component or remote application. This enables direct communication between the components and configuration proxy 1510. configuration proxy 1510 provides seamless access to configuration data for client component 1501. Configuration proxy 1510 gets data from configuration server 336 on behalf of its clients, and caches the data in a DOM tree in proxy 1510 for optimal use. Same data may be accessed and modified by more than one client applications/components, e.g. network portal system components, at the same time. Therefore, proxy 1510 has responsibility to synchronize and merge data changes by different clients and to notify all clients accessing that data about data changes. All modifications are initially carried on the DOM tree stored in proxy 1510. Proxy 1510 reports collective changes to server 336 that in turn makes actual changes to DOM tree 1570).

Remarks

6. The following pertaining arts are discovered and not used in this office action. Office reserves the right to use these arts in later actions.

a. Bansal, Amar Inder Singh et al. (US 20030120593 A1) Method and system for delivering multiple services electronically to customers via a centralized portal architecture

b. Junghuber, Robert et al. (US 20040133660 A1) Dynamic portal assembly

c. Kumar, Arvind et al. (US 20040010542 A1) Managed service apparatus, systems, and methods

d. Radhakrishnan, Rakesh (US 20040205101 A1) Systems, methods, and articles of manufacture for aligning service containers

e. Suzuki; Hiroyuki et al. (US 7194524 B2) Information processing system, information disclosing server, and portal server

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Muktesh G. Gupta whose telephone number is 571-270-5011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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